Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /085 W

R 161104Z FEB 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: PEOPLES ASSEMBLY APPROVES PUBLIC SECTOR PAY RISES

- 1. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY IS REPORTED TO HAVE APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 14 LAW PROVIDING EXTRA INCREMENTS TO CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES' SALARIES. PENSIONS ARE INCREASED UNDER SAME LAW BY 10 PERCENT
- 2. PAY RISES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN IN OFFING AS PART OF SUGAR-COATING TO ECONOMIC REFORM MEASURES ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH AND STILL EXPECTED (PARTIALLY) TO BE IMPLEMENTED. CAIRO PRESS FEATURES PROMINENTLY ACTION TAKEN BY PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF MEASURE ARE SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR FROM NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM CONTACTS IN ASSEMBLY THAT LAW, IN EFFECT, PROVIDES FOR DOUBLE STEP INCREASE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1977. AMOUNT INVOLVED FOR INDIVIDUALS RANGES FROM ABOUT LE 28 PER YEAR FOR LOWER-RANKING EMPLOYEES TO LE 120 FOR HIGHEST GRADES. REPORTEDLY EVEN EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE REACHED MAXIMUM SALARY IN A GIVEN GRADE WILL RECEIVE ONE EXCEPTIONAL STEP INCREASE IN AMOUNT APPROPRIATE TO THEIR RANK.

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- 3. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING WHICH WOULD INDICATE MILITARY PAY IS AFFECTED BY NEWLY-ENACTED MEASURE, NOR HAVE EXPECTED INCREASES IN PRIVATE SECTOR SALARY MINIMUMS YET BEEN ADOPTED.
- 4. INCREMENTS TO SALARIES AND PENSIONS INCREASES WILL BE PAID MARCH 1, ACCORDING TO PRESS. MANY EMPLOYEES UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE WATCHING CAREFULLY WHETHER PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ACTION IS

REFELECTED IN THEIR ACTUAL PAY.

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